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Viewing cable 10ABUDHABI47, HAMAS COMMANDER KILLED IN DUBAI HOTEL

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#10ABUDHABI47**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
10ABUDHABI47	2010-01-31 13:04	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Embassy Abu Dhabi

Appears in these articles:

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000047

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SUBJECT: HAMAS COMMANDER KILLED IN DUBAI HOTEL

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard Olson, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (U) On January 29, approximately 9:00 am local time Friday, Reuters first reported the January 20 murder in a Dubai hotel of senior Hamas member Mahmoud Abdul Raouf Mohammad Hassan (known as

Mahmoud Al Mabhouh). The brief wire story preceded the release of an official statement from the Dubai government later in the day. Al Mabhouh's remains were flown from Dubai to Syria on January 28. He was buried January 29 in a refugee camp in Damascus, as Dubai officials briefed local and international media on his murder.

¶2. (U) The initial Dubai government media office statement said Al Mabhouh "entered the UAE on January 19 at 3:15 pm from an Arab country. His body was found in the afternoon of January 20 in a Dubai hotel where he was staying." Official statements on January 29 expressed confidence the killers would be arrested: "The ongoing investigation will speed up and police will be presenting the suspects to court for trial as soon as possible, in coordination with Interpol. The suspects left the UAE before the deceased's body was found in a Dubai hotel." (Note: The hotel was the Al Bustan Rotana near Dubai International Airport. End Note.)

¶3. (U) On Al Jazeera television January 29, Dubai Chief of Police Dhahi Khalfan Tamim said "I cannot rule out the possibility of Mossad involvement in the assassination of Mabhouh." Tamim told local journalists Dubai Police were "pursuing individual suspects, not an organization" and that it was "still early to start pointing fingers on who is behind the crime." Tamim also confirmed the victim entered the UAE on a passport bearing his real name, after a Hamas spokesman in Damascus told the media Al Mabhouh possessed five passports but traveled frequently to Dubai using his actual identity.

¶4. (U) Local media coverage on January 30 and 31 focused on statements from Al Mabhouh's family members and Hamas officials in Gaza and Syria, where he lived since 1989. Local and international media reports noted he was the second foreign militant murdered in Dubai in less than a year. Former Chechen commander Sulim Yamadayev was shot and killed near an exclusive Dubai apartment complex in late March 2009.

¶5. (S/NF) Ambassador happened to be at a social event with Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed's media advisor when the story broke, and he drew the latter's attention to it. The media advisor (protect) after making a few calls reported back that the UAE's public posture was being discussed between Dubai Ruler Mohammed bin Rashid and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed. The two options discussed were to say nothing at all, or to reveal more or less the full extent of the UAE's investigations. (Comment: Saying nothing would have been perceived as protecting the Israelis and in the end, the UAE chose to tell all. The statement was carefully drafted not to point any fingers, but the reference in the document (see below) to a gang with western passports will be read locally as referring to the Mossad. End Comment.)

¶6. (U)

Text of Official Statement

Dubai Police identify suspects in murder of Mahmoud Al Mabhouh

Jan 29, 2010 - 06:18

WAM Dubai, Jan 29th, 2010

WAM)--Dubai Government media office has announced that Dubai police have identified suspects in the murder crime of Palestinian Hamas

member Mahmoud Abdul Raouf Hassan and that they would soon track them down and refer to court in conjunction with International

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Police (Interpol).

The suspects were reported to have left the country before the murder crime was reported. The deceased's body was later discovered at a hotel in Dubai.

An official security source in Dubai said that the initial investigations suggest that the murder was inflicted by experienced criminal gang, who had been tracking down the movements of the victim before entering the UAE. "Despite quick skill exhibited by murderers, yet they left behind evidence at the scene of crime that would help in tracking them down at earliest. Dubai police no longer believe in ambiguous or unknown crime".

The source further disclosed that the investigations revealed that the suspects hold European passports, adding that Dubai police would embark in arrangements with Interpol to arrest the suspects and bring them to books. "The evidence will speedily help competent authorities to track down the suspects".

Known as Mahmoud Al Mabhouh, the deceased, a Palestinian, entered into the UAE at 3.15PM, on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, from an Arab country. His body was found the following day at afternoon on Jan. 20, 2010, at a hotel he resided at in Dubai.
OLSON